

## Message Text

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44

ACTION EA-10

INFO OCT-01 EUR-12 NEA-10 ISO-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-03

H-02 INR-07 L-03 NSAE-00 NSC-05 PA-01 PRS-01 SP-02

SS-15 USIA-06 EB-07 COME-00 FEA-01 INT-05 OMB-01

TRSE-00 OES-03 /095 W

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R 180820Z JUL 75

FM AMEMBASSY TOKYO

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 133

INFO AMEMBASSY ABU DHABI

AMEMBASSY ALGIERS

AMEMBASSY AMMAN

AMEMBASSY BAGHDAD

AMEMBASSY CAIRO

AMEMBASSY DAMASCUS

AMEMBASSY JERUSALEM

AMEMBASSY KUWAIT

AMEMBASSY PARIS

AMEMBASSY TEHRAN

C O N F I D E N T I A L TOKYO 9721

E.O. 11652 GDS

TAGS: XR ENRG

SUBJECT: NAKAYAMA VISIT TO MIDDLE EAST

1. PRIME MINISTER MIKI WILL SEND YOSHIRO NAKAYAMA, EXPERIENCED CAREER DIPLOMAT (FORMER AMBASSADOR TO SAIGON, GENEVA AND PARIS) AND PERSONAL CONFIDENT OFFICER OF FOREIGN MINISTER MIYAZAWA WILL DEPART TOKYO JULY 19 AND RETURN TO REPORT TO THE PRIME MINISTER BEFORE MIKI LEAVES FOR THE UNITED STATES AUGUST 2. INITIALLY, NAKAYAMA MISSION DESIGNED TO SILENCE CRITICISM IN BUREAUCRACY WHICH SURFACED AT MINISTERIAL COMMITTEE ON ENERGY AT END OF JUNE THAT FOCUSED ON NOT DOING ALL IT COULD TO MAKE JAPAN'S POSITION CLEAR TO OIL PRODUCERS. SUBSEQUENTLY, RATIONALE FOR CONFIDENTIAL

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TRIP AS PREPARATION FOR MIKI VISIT TO WASHINGTON WAS TACKLED ON. JAPANESE ALSO NOTED THAT OTHER OIL CONSUMERS, MOST RECENTLY GERMANS, SENDING SPECIAL REPRESENTATIVES TO VOICE CONCERN OVER POSSIBLE PRICE RISE IN BILATERAL

CONVERSATION WITH OIL PRODUCERS.

2. ACCORDING TO FNNOFF MIDDLE EASTERN AND AFRICAN AFFAIRS BUREAU DEPUTY DIRECTOR GENERAL MURATA, NAKAYAMA WILL EXPLAIN TO SAUDIS AND IRANIANAS THE SERIOUS CONSEQUENCES THAT ANOTHER OIL PRICE RISE WILL HAVE (NOT ONLY ON JAPAN'S RECESSION RIDDEN ECONOMY, BUT ALSO RIME MINISTER MIKI'S POLITICAL REPUTATIONS). HE WILL TELL THEM GOJ BELEIVES PRICE RISE WILL DAMPEN ECONOMIC UPSURGE EXPECTED LATER THIS YEAR, AND TARNISH RELATIVELY SUCCESSFUL RECORD MIKI ADMINISTRATION HAS EARNED FOR CONTROLLING INFLATION. TIMING OF PRICE RISE SEVERAL WEEKS BEFORE POSSIBLE GENERAL ELECTION WILL BE PARTICULARLY PAINFUL.

3. IN ADDITION, NAKAYAMA WILL BE SOUNDING OUT THINKING OF OIL PRODUCERS VIS-VIS PRODUCER-CONSUMER CONFERENCE. JAPANESE BELEIVE SAUDI ARABIA HOPING THAT PRE-CONFERENCE CAN BE SCHEDULED, ENABLING SAUDIS TO ARGUE THAT SEPTEMBER PRICE HIKE SHOULD BE POSTPONED , AT LEAST UNTIL MEETING HELD. NAKAYAMA WILL TRY TO FIND OUT WHAT IRANIANS AND ALGERIANS REALLY THINK ON ISSUE OF PRE-CONFERENCE. JAPANESE FAVOR CONVENING PRE-CONFERENCE INVOLVING THOSE NATIONS WHICH TOOK PART IN ABORTIVE MEETING LAST APRIL. THEY WOULD THEN BE AGREEABLE TO CONVENING A LARGER GATHERING, ALTHOUGH LIST OF CONFEREES, LEVEL OF ATTENDANCE, AND AGENDA ARE STILL OPEN QUESTIONS.

4. FNNOFF NOT PARTICULARLY SANGUINE ABOUT EFFECTIVENESS OF NAKAYAMA MISSION BUT BELEIVE NO HARM CAN COME OF EFFORT TO EXPLAIN JAPANESE VIEWS.  
HODGSON

CONFIDENTIAL

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ALGIERS  
AMMAN  
BAGHDAD  
CAIRO  
DAMASCUS

JERUSALEM

KUWAIT

AMEMBASS PARIS

TEHRAN

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